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January 9, 2008

79 Woodberry Road  
Deer Park, IL 60010

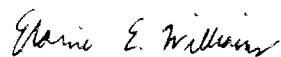
Secretary Vernon Williams  
U.S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am concerned about the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railway Company of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway (Docket #35087). I live in the Barrington area and would be impacted by the proposed increase in rail traffic that Canadian National's acquisition would create. Traffic congestion is already a huge problem with the current train schedules. Adding many more freight trains, which take much longer to cross an intersection than commuter trains do, would make traffic a nightmare, especially during peak commuting times. A friend of mine residing in Lake Zurich, IL already hears current trains in her home, though her home is probably over one mile from the tracks. I am troubled to think of the increased pollution that so many additional freight trains would contribute. Noise, exhaust, and the possibility of dangerous materials in transport spilling or derailling cause me great concern. In addition, there are attempts to "beat" the oncoming train and cross ahead of it. A woman told of a time when she was pressured to crossing the downtown Barrington tracks ahead of an oncoming train, and her car was briefly stuck on the tracks, miraculously making it across just ahead of the train. From an economic standpoint, I usually avoid traveling to and through downtown Barrington during evening rush hour, when traffic is extremely backed up. I am certain that others from neighboring towns would also avoid doing business in Barrington in order to avoid the heavy traffic congestion that is likely to occur with the increased train usage on the E, J, & E tracks. This would hurt the profitability of local businesses. Such an increase in train traffic would have a negative impact on the entire Barrington community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elaine E. Williams